

Adopted: 8-17-2016

Revised: _____

NMFA POLICY No. 6.9
COMPLIANCE WITH ACADEMIC STANDARDS
AND AUTHORIZER CONTRACT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the minimum expectations for North Metro Flex (NMFA) students so that they can meet the academic standards established by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education (“Commissioner”). The policy is also adopted to provide a mechanism to ensure compliance with the academic outcomes set by NMFA’s authorizer.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of NMFA to provide curriculum that meets the requirements contained the academic standards and benchmarks established by the Commissioner and to ensure that students also meet the outcomes required by the contract between NMFA and its authorizer, Novation Education Opportunities.

III. CURRICULUM

A. The Board of NMFA directs the Executive Director to work with [administrative team or curriculum coordinator] to annually review NMFA’s curriculum to ensure that the curriculum:

1. Is aligned to the academic standards established by the Commissioner;
2. That NMFA’s curriculum covers all benchmarks related to each academic standard; and
3. That the curriculum provides students with an opportunity to satisfactorily complete all of the required state standards and benchmarks.

IV. PROCESS FOR REVIEWING CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. "Instruction" means methods of providing learning experiences that enable a student to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements.
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2. "Curriculum" means school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills and career and college readiness.
 3. "World's best workforce" means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.
- B. Performance Measures. In order to determine NMFA's progress in striving to create the world's best workforce, measures must include at least:
1. Student performance on the National Association of Education Progress;
 2. The size of the academic achievement gap by student subgroup;
 3. Student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;
 4. High school graduation rates; and
 5. Career and college readiness under §120B.30, subdivision 1.
- C. Adopting Plans and Budgets. NMFA, at a public meeting, shall adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world's best workforce and includes:
1. Clearly defined school goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for all student subgroups identified in Minn. Stat. §120B.35, subd. 3 (b)(2);
 2. A process for assessing and evaluating each student's progress toward meeting state and local academic standards and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of instruction in pursuit of student and school success and curriculum affecting students' progress and growth toward career and college readiness and leading to the world's best workforce;
 3. A system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, school principal evaluations under §123B.147, subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under §122A.40, subd. 8, or §122A.41, subd. 5;
 4. Strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement;
 5. Education effectiveness practices that integrate high-quality instruction, rigorous curriculum, technology, and a collaborative professional culture that develops and supports teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness; and
 6. An annual budget for continuing to implement the NMFA's plan.
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D. District Advisory Committee. The Board of NMFA will establish an advisory committee to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards, consistent with Section IV(c) of this policy. This advisory committee, to the extent possible, shall reflect the diversity of the NMFA [if applicable; and its school sites], and shall include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents.

1. The district advisory committee shall recommend to the Board of NMFA rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Section IV(B) of this policy and Minnesota Statutes §§120B.022, subd. 1, paragraphs (b) and (c), and 120B.35, NMFA assessments, and program evaluations. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents shall comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.
2. Consistent with requirements for school performance reports under §120B.36, subd. 1, the Board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in area served by NMFA, by mail, or by electronic means on NMFA's website. The Board shall hold an annual public meeting to review, and revise where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction, and to review district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The Board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines.

E. Periodic Report. NMFA shall periodically survey affected constituencies about their connection to and level of satisfaction with NMFA. NMFA shall include the results of this evaluation in the summary report required under Section IV(D)(2) of this policy.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH AUTHORIZER CONTRACT

NMFA's authorization must be in the form of a written contract signed by Novation Education Opportunities (NEO) and the board of NMFA. The contract must be completed within 45 business days of the Commissioner's approval of the affidavit NEO submitted to the Commissioner pursuant to Minnesota law. NEO shall submit a copy of the signed charter contract to the Commissioner within ten business days of its execution. The contract between NEO and NMFA must be in writing and contain, at minimum, the following terms:

- A. A declaration that NMFA will carry out the primary purpose of a charter school which is to improve pupil learning and student achievement and how NMFA will report its implementation of the primary purpose;
 - B. A declaration of the additional purpose or purposes described in Minn. Stat. §124E.10, subd. 1 that NMFA intends to carry out and how NMFA will report its implementation of those purposes;
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- C. A description of NMFA's program and the specific academic and nonacademic outcomes that pupils must achieve;
 - D. A statement of NMFA's admission policies and procedures;
 - E. A governance, management, and administration plan for NMFA;
 - F. Signed agreements from NMFA's Board Members to comply with all federal and state laws governing organizational, programmatic, and financial requirements applicable to charter schools;
 - G. The criteria, processes, and procedures that NEO will use to monitor and evaluate the fiscal, operational, and academic performance of NMFA;
 - H. For renewal of the contract between NMFA and NEO the formal written performance evaluation of NMFA that is a prerequisite for reviewing a charter contract under Minn. Stat. §124E.10, subd. 3;
 - I. Types and amounts of insurance liability coverage to be obtained by NMFA, consistent with Minn. Stat. §124E.10, subd. 1 (9);
 - J. Consistent with Minn. Stat. §124E.10 , subd. 1 (10), a provision to indemnify and hold harmless NEO and its officers, agents, and employees from any suit, claim, or liability arising from any operation of NMFA, and the Commissioner and the Minnesota Department of Education's officers, agents, and employees notwithstanding Minn. Stat. §3.736;
 - K. A description of the term of the initial contract between NEO and NMFA, which may be up to five years plus an additional preoperational planning year, and up to five years for a renewed contract or a contract with a new authorizer after a transfer of authorizers, if warranted by the NMFA's academic, financial, and operational performance;
 - L. How the Board or the Operators of NMFA will provide special instruction and services for children with a disability under Minn. Stat. §§125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65, a description of the financial parameters within which NMFA will operate to provide the special instruction and services to children with a disability;
 - M. The specific conditions for contract renewal that identify performance in improving pupil learning and student achievement as the most important factor in determining contract renewal;
 - N. The purposes described in Minn. Stat. §124E.01, subd. 1, and related performance obligations under Section V(G) as additional factors in determining contract renewal; and
 - O. The plan for an orderly closing of NMFA under Minn. Stat. Chap. 317A, whether the closure is a termination for cause, a voluntary termination, or a nonrenewal of the contract, that includes establishing the responsibilities of the Board of NMFA and the NEO and notifying the Commissioner, NEO, school district in which NMFA is located, and parents of enrolled students about the closure, information and assistance sufficient
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to enable the student to re-enroll in another school, the transfer of student records under and procedures for closing financial operations.

VI. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[Note to user: the following sections only apply to schools offering grades 9-12.]

The Board of NMFA directs the Executive Director to work with [administrative team or curriculum coordinator] to annually review NMFA's graduation requirements to ensure that they meet or exceed the state graduation requirements established in law or rule. The Executive Director shall report to the Board on the school's credit requirements at the beginning of each academic year.

VII. CREDITS

[Note to user: the following sections only apply to schools offering grades 9-12.]

The Board of NMFA directs the Executive Director to work with [registrar, school counselor or other appropriate administrator] to review the transcript of each student who began ninth grade in the 2011-2012 school year, or later, to ensure that each student has successfully completed the high school level credits for graduation established in rule or law.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124E.10 (Charter Schools)
Minn. Stat. §120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. §120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. §120B.024 (Credits)
